

Message Text

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73

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03

INR-07 NSAE-00 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02 CIEP-01

OMB-01 IGA-01 AGR-05 NSC-05 SS-15 STR-04 CEA-01 L-03

SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 /076 W
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O 262000Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4597

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTO DOMINGO 3726

DEPT PLEASE PASS WHITE HOUSE, ATT'N GENERAL SKOWCROFT

FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, DR

SUBJ: CCC CREDIT

1. I HAVE INFORMALLY LEARNED THAT NOTWITHSTANDING THE GODR'S PAYMENT OF NEARLY \$ ONE MILLION AND PRESIDENT BALAGUER'S UNDER-TAKING TO SCHEDULE LIQUIDATIONS OF REMAINING PL 480 INDEBTEDNESS, CCC CREDITS, PROMISED IN JUNE TO DOMINICAN OFFICIALS, MAY NEVERTHELESS NOT BE FORTHCOMING SINCE CCC ALLOCATIONS HAVE BEEN MADE ELSEWHERE IN THE MEANTIME. IF THIS IS TRUE, IT IS A PRETTY POOR SHOW. REVIEW OF THE HISTORY OF THIS MISERABLE BUSINESS WOULD CONVINCE ANY FAIR-MINDED PERSON THAT US WAS VULNERABLE TO CHARGES OF SHARP PRACTICES AND SHABBY TREATMENT

OF A COUNTRY THAT HAS BEEN ESPECIALLY FRIENDLY TOWARD US.

2. SUCH MOCKERY UNDERMINING OF SECRETARY KISSINGER'S PROMISING INITIATIVE IN THE HEMISPHERE, THE "NEW DIALOGUE", WOULD BE BAD ENOUGH WERE THE DOMINICAN REQUEST FOR CCC CREDITS BASED SOLELY UPON BALANCE OF PAYMENTS CONSIDERATIONS. BUT TO HAVE PERMITTED
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SUCH A SITUATION TO OCCUR WHEN THE REQUEST FOR FOOD STEMS FROM

THE WORST DROUGHT SITUATION THIS COUNTRY HAS EXPERIENCED IN FIFTY YEARS, WHERE PEOPLE ARE GOING HUNGRY, AND THE GOVERNMENT IS ENGAGING IN A MULTI-MILLION PESO CRASH PLANTING EFFORT TO STAVE OFF WHAT MAY BECOME A MAJOR EMERGENCY, BORDERS ON THE IRRESPONSIBLE IN MY JUDGEMENT.

3. TO DATE, WE HAVE MANAGED TO MOLLIFY PANICKY CENTRAL BANK OFFICIALS WHO ARE BEING HARASSED BY THE LEADING FLOUR MILLERS ABOUT TO RUN OUT OF WHEAT BY PROMISING THAT CCC HELP WAS JUST AROUND THE CORNER (AS WE HAD GOOD REASON TO EXPECT). IF WE HAVE NOW TO INFORM THE GODR THAT CCC COMMODITIES ARE UNAVAILABLE TO IT, THE GOVERNMENT'S AND THE DOMINICAN PEOPLE'S REACTION (SPURRED BY THE NATIONALIST PRESS) WILL NOT BE FAVORABLE TO US HERE. NORMALLY FRIENDLY, DOMINICANS AS WITH OTHER PEOPLES TEND TO BECOME A BIT IRRATIONAL WHEN HUNGRY; THEY'RE PECULIAR THAT WAY.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: I DO NOT KNOW WHAT CONSIDERATIONS PERSUADED THE POWERS THAT BE TO ALLOCATE ELSEWHERE THE CCC CREDIT PROMISED TO THE DOMINICANS, BUT I DO URGE THAT REMEDIAL ACTION BE TAKEN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE FOR THE ABOVE, UNDERSTATED, REASONS.

HURWITCH

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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